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Schumer Study: Invasive Species Could Cost Upstate New York Farmers \$170 million

A new Schumer study found that upstate New York farmers could lose nearly \$170 million in revenue due to lost production caused by invasive insects and weeds. According to a report by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, invasive species can cause a 13 percent drop in farm output. Upstate New York farms generated \$1.1 billion in cash receipts in 2004, meaning the farms could lose \$170 million, or roughly 13 percent, due to invasive species.

Invasive species are non-native plants, animals, insects or other organisms that can cause harm to the environment, farm land, crops, bodies of water, and even human health. Invasive species are a form of biological pollution and are recognized as one of the leading threats to biodiversity.

The Schumer study is based on data from the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets and the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

Capital Region farms produced **\$78,756,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$12,098,060** due to invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Estimated Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Albany	\$10,747,000	\$1,650,895	Current Invasives located in the Capital Region include: the <i>Eurasian Watermilfoil</i> and <i>Zebra Mussels</i> in surrounding lakes and rivers; <i>Japanese Knotweed</i> , which spreads quickly to form dense thickets that overwhelm native vegetation and greatly alter natural ecosystems; <i>Purple Loosestrife</i> , which is over-running marshes and fields, and has disrupted indigenous plants and animals;
Fulton	\$1,729,000	\$265,599	
Montgomery	\$12,805,000	\$1,967,033	
Rensselaer	\$13,903,000	\$2,135,702	
Saratoga	\$11,944,000	\$1,834,771	
Schenectady	\$2,719,000	\$417,678	
Schoharie	\$9,023,000	\$1,386,063	
Washington	\$15,886,000	\$2,440,319	
Capital Region Total	\$78,756,000	\$12,098,060	

Central New York farms produced **\$92,458,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$14,202,886** due to invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Total Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Onondaga	\$29,443,000	\$4,522,870	Current Invasives located in Central New York include: <i>Giant Hogweed</i> , which exudes a clear watery sap that can burn affected areas on human skin resulting in severe blistering and painful dermatitis; and the <i>Swallow-worts</i> , which can overwhelm forest land.
Oswego	\$20,151,000	\$3,095,485	
Cortland	\$5,299,000	\$814,003	
Madison	\$10,365,000	\$1,592,214	
Oneida	\$27,200,000	\$4,178,313	
Central New York Total	\$92,458,000	\$14,202,886	

Rochester-Finger Lakes farms produced **\$313,254,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$48,120,343** due to invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Total Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Monroe	\$50,684,000	\$7,785,795	Current Invasives located in the Rochester-Finger Lakes Region: <i>Golden Nematode</i> , which, once they target prey plants such as potatoes, tomatoes and eggplants, the nematodes' eggs start feeding on the crops' roots; <i>Purple Loostripe</i> , which is over-running marshes and fields, and has disrupted indigenous plants and animals; and <i>Zebra Mussels</i> , which have infested Lake Ontario.
Cayuga	\$41,301,000	\$6,344,431	
Livingston	\$34,047,000	\$5,230,111	
Ontario	\$43,540,000	\$6,688,373	
Schuyler	\$5,548,000	\$852,253	
Seneca	\$21,463,000	\$3,297,027	
Tompkins	\$11,098,000	\$1,704,813	
Wayne	\$81,179,000	\$12,470,268	
Yates	\$24,394,000	\$3,747,271	
Finger Lakes Total	\$313,254,000	\$48,120,343	

Hudson Valley farms produced **\$149,176,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$22,915,590** due invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Total Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Westchester	\$9,339,000	\$1,434,605	Current Invasives located in the Hudson Valley: <i>Mile-a-Minute-Vine</i> , which grows at six feet per day and can block sunlight from apple orchards and other farms; <i>Phragmites</i> , which are reeds that overrun forests along highways.
Orange	\$46,089,000	\$7,079,937	
Columbia	\$21,032,000	\$3,230,819	
Dutchess	\$23,764,000	\$3,650,494	
Greene	\$6,709,000	\$1,030,599	
Putnam	\$2,589,000	\$397,708	
Rockland	\$3,326,000	\$510,922	
Sullivan	\$4,362,000	\$670,066	
Ulster	\$31,966,000	\$4,910,440	
Hudson Valley Total	\$149,176,000	\$22,915,590	

North Country farms produced **\$84,569,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$12,991,021** due to invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Total Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Clinton	\$21,255,000	\$3,265,075	Current Invasives located in the North Country: the <i>Eurasian Watermilfoil</i> and <i>Zebra Mussels</i> in Lake George and surrounding lakes; <i>Japanese Knotweed</i> which spreads quickly to form dense thickets that overwhelms native vegetation and greatly alters natural ecosystems; <i>Garlic Mustard</i> , which can quickly overwhelm forests in Adirondack National Park;
St. Lawrence	\$13,433,000	\$2,063,503	
Warren	\$2,518,000	\$386,801	
Essex	\$4,312,000	\$662,386	
Franklin	\$8,553,000	\$1,313,864	
Herkimer	\$9,123,000	\$1,401,425	
Jefferson	\$14,977,000	\$2,300,684	
Lewis	\$10,398,000	\$1,597,283	
North Country Total	\$84,569,000	\$12,991,021	

Southern Tier farms produced **\$90,302,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$13,871,693** due to invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Total Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Broome	\$7,282,000	\$1,118,620	Current Invasives located in the Southern Tier: <i>Viburnum Leaf Beetle</i> , which is a voracious eater that can defoliate shrubs entirely and kill them after two or three years of heavy infestation and <i>Zebra Mussels</i> , which have been found in Cayuga Lake.
Allegany	\$12,333,000	\$1,894,527	
Chemung	\$4,666,000	\$716,765	
Chenango	\$7,657,000	\$1,176,226	
Delaware	\$9,734,000	\$1,495,283	
Otsego	\$9,039,000	\$1,388,521	
Steuben	\$31,904,000	\$4,900,916	
Tioga	\$7,687,000	\$1,180,834	
Southern Tier Total	\$90,302,000	\$13,871,693	

Western New York farms produced **\$294,248,000** worth of crops in 2004 and could lose an estimated **\$45,200,747** due to invasive species.

County	Total Crop Production (2004)	Total Production Lost Due to Weed and Insect Invasive Species	Invasive Species Present in the Region
Erie	\$48,774,000	\$7,492,392	Current Invasive located in Western New York include: the <i>Zebra Mussel</i> in the Great Lakes; <i>Giant Hogweed</i> , which exudes a clear watery sap that can burn affected areas on human skin resulting in severe blistering and painful dermatitis; and the <i>Swede Midge</i> , which is currently attacking broccoli and cabbage crops.
Genesee	\$55,716,000	\$8,558,783	
Niagara	\$44,700,000	\$6,866,566	
Orleans	\$67,775,000	\$10,411,220	
Wyoming	\$39,289,000	\$6,035,358	
Cattaraugus	\$18,997,000	\$2,918,214	
Chautauqua	\$18,997,000	\$2,918,214	
Western NY Total	\$294,248,000	\$45,200,747	